

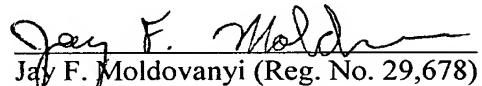
REMARKS

By the above amendments, Applicant has amended claims 27, 32, 39 and 41 and added new claims 53-55 for consideration on the merits. Accordingly, remaining in the application are independent claim 27 with its dependent claims 28-31 and 53-55; independent claim 32 with its dependent claims 33-38; independent claim 39 with its dependent claims 40-46; and independent claim 47 with its dependent claims 48-52.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application as currently amended and earnestly solicits an early indication of allowability. If any minor matter can be resolved or any of the foregoing clarified by a telephone call, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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